

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/821,889

Examiner

Gregory P. Hein

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI, KATSUYOSHI

Art Unit

2188

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the after non-final rejection amendment filed on 11/07/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1 – 15 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 1, 7, and 15:

U.S. Patent 6,877,110 (Suzuki) teaches reconfiguring an array of hard disk drives with subgroups comprising RAID groups. These RAID groups can be increased and decreased (Suzuki Col. 4 lines 4 – 26 and demonstrated in figures 1A and 1B). The controller stores information about the configuration and communicates with the hard drives via one of several ports connecting each RAID group to the controller (Suzuki Col. 4 lines 8 – 13.) The RAID group can be redistributed across multiple ports to improve access efficiency and load balancing (Suzuki Col. 4 lines 50 – 60.)

The controller has information about the individual drives and about the physical location of each drive location within the housing unit. When the drives are inserted into the housing the controller will identify the drive and determine if it has been inserted into the proper location. (Suzuki Col. 4 line 65 – Col. 5 line 15.)

Upon insertion into the housing, the controller, if equipped, can display the mapping information indicating the expected location of each hard drive. Additionally, the controller can display information telling the user that a drive has been inserted into the wrong location and inform the user of the correct location for an identified drive (Suzuki Col. 6 lines 33 - 38.)

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Suzuki does not teach displaying specific subsets of the array of drives as taught in claims 1, 7 and 15. These claims teach displaying drives different from the group or different from the module containing the reconfigured RAID group. Suzuki teaches displaying the configuration containing the adjusted RAID group or module. It is for these aspect of claims 1, 7 and 15 and a lack of art or motivation to combine additional art to overcome that they have been allowed.

Claims 2 – 7, and 8 – 14 further limit claims 1 and 8, respectively therefore they too are deemed allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory P. Hein whose telephone number is 571-272-4180. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mano Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory Hein
12/7/2005

Mano Padmanabhan
12/8/05

MANO PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER